

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

the deafening uproar when the Romans broke in, his feeble declaration that he was not the Pope was unheard, or taken merely as an expression of humility. They seized him and enthroned him on the altar. Prelates and people alike knelt to kiss his feet, and acclaimed him as vicar of Christ; and such was the press of unwelcome adorers, who added to the tortures that he was already suffering from the gout, that the poor old man began to rave wildly of antipopes and devils, and cursed the Romans who besought his apostolic benediction. After some hours, more dead than alive, he was carried in triumph to the papal apartments, and there left in peace.¹

While this was in progress, the cardinals fled as best they could from the palace. Aigrefeuille, Pierre de Vergne, Viviers, Poitiers, and Limoges took refuge in the Castello Sant' Angelo, where they were joined later by the Cardinal of Brittany, whose house had been sacked and he himself roughly handled. The Cardinals of Florence, Milan, and Marmoutier got in safety to their own houses. Robert of Geneva, Noellet, Orsini, and Flandrin escaped from the city. The last to leave the chapel was Pedro de Luna, accompanied by his conclavist, the Dean of Tarascon, Fernando Perez, who states that, throughout all the disturbance, the Cardinal had rebuked and restrained the fury of the people. A number of Romans escorted them on their way, and, as they passed Sant' Angelo, the French supposed them prisoners, and attempted a rescue. Once over the bridge, the Cardinal was treated with all reverence by the populace.² Alfonso da Vadaterra, who visited him on his return from the

¹ The clearest account of this extraordinary affair is in Valois, I. pp. 52, 53. That given by Creighton, in his *History of the Papacy*, was written before the Vatican documents were made accessible. It is curious to notice that Catherine of Sweden, who was in Rome, supposes that the cardinals enthroned Tebaldeschi for fear lest the Romans should kill the real Pope because not a Roman. Cf. her testimony in Raynaldus, vii. pp. 380, 381. The Italian cardinals state that one of the others "told the people that the Lord of St. Peter's was elected but would not consent, and that they should induce him to consent." Gayet, doc. 27.

² Letter from the Dean of Tarascon, Rome, April 11, to the Precentor of Elne at Avignon. Gayet, doc. 22.